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ABSTRACT

These proceedings summarize the important ideas discussed in various workshops of a Delaware forum on the changing nature of the American family. The contents include an opening statement by the Governor of Delaware; a transcript of a panel discussion of lobbying and obtaining grants and other types of funding; a brief address from a representative of the White House Conference on Families which includes comments on the history, plans and prospects of the White House conference; a copy of the script of a slide presentation on changes in the American family; and an address on family and policy. Also included are brief summaries from eight workshops: Families and their Children, The Effects of Government and the Economy on Families, Aging Persons in the Family, The Family and the Law, The Family and the Mass Media, The Family and Religion, Medical and Social Services: Their Impact on the Family, and The Family and Work. (Author/SS)

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ED178164

THE FAMILY FORUM PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC POLICY: Its Impact on Delaware Families and Children

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc.
Delaware Association of Christians and Jews
Delaware Congress of Parents and Teachers
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Delaware State College - Department of Home Economics
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League of Women Voters of Delaware
Mental Health Association, Sussex County
New Castle County Headstart/Day Care
New Castle County Homestart
Parents Anonymous of Delaware, Inc.
Public Assistance Taskforce
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The Division of Social Services
Southern New Castle County Community Mental Health Center
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Initial Planning Committee

Professionals and citizens meeting in brainstorming sessions throughout the state.

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The Family Forum--An Overview

by
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About 250 parents, government officials and professionals participated in the Family Forum held at Newark's First Presbyterian Church. The event was sponsored by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service with partial funding from the Delaware Humanities Forum, in cooperation with 40 other family agencies and programs throughout the state. A sampling of the cooperating agencies which featured exhibits in the display area included: Family Service of Northern Delaware; Delaware League for Planned Parenthood; Ulster Project Delaware-Pacem in Terris; Parents Anonymous of Delaware, Inc.; Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc.; and Geriatric Services of Delaware.

Family Forum project director Dr. Patricia Tanner Nelson, family and child development specialist with the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service, says the Family Forum was meant to make people aware of the changing nature of the American family. The traditional family--working father, homemaker mother, and two children--is no longer the typical family, she says.

As Governor DuPont pointed out in his opening remarks, more than 50 percent of women work outside the home today, including more than 30 percent with children under six. "The babysitter and childcare center have become as much a part of the family today as the grandmother used to be," he said.

"The family may be changing," says Dr. Nelson, "but it's just as important as it has always been. In planning the conference we wanted people to start thinking about the stresses our society places on the family today, and the kinds of changes we'll need to make to help our families function better. Many outside forces impinge upon our families, including laws, the media, religion and the economy. We explored each of these areas in our workshops."

Participants at the Family Forum were struck by the diversity of the families represented on the panels, including teenage mothers, older widows, middle-class families and welfare families. Workshops explored the legal difficulties of foster children, the hushed-up matter of family violence, the problems of two career families, and the crises of families in poverty.

Panels of doctors, lawyers, and family service professionals brought to light their particular concerns, while a public policy panel featuring state legislators and active citizens explained how anyone can get involved in creating positive changes through the legislative process.

The Family Forum could be considered Delaware's first step toward a White House Conference on Families, tentatively scheduled for 1981. Delaware's Family Forum was meant to start everyone thinking about families, Nelson explains. By the time the White House Conference is held, Delawareans should be ready with specific recommendations for changes needed to shore up the beleaguered American family.

DELAWARE'S COMMITMENT TO FAMILIES

Governor Pierre S. duPont

Let me begin by commending those responsible for planning and sponsoring this Family Forum, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Delaware and the Delaware Humanities Forum in particular. The subject of families and strengthening the family unit is a subject about which we have a growing awareness. We recognize the tremendous changes that have occurred in American family life in recent years. We know that these changes have great impact not only on our economy but in the areas of education, child abuse, and social services. And so I commend you for coming together on this day to examine ways in which we in Delaware through our public and private agencies can better serve and help strengthen families.

Let me remind you of some of the indicators of change in family life that are cited in a recent publication by the Education Commission of the States:

1. Sixty percent of American families are metropolitan residents.

2. Today, families move more frequently both long and short distances. I am told that in the New Castle County School District the enrollment in particular schools changes regularly particularly in the city as families move from place to place.

3. Families are having fewer children. The average household even in 1974 was 2.97 persons.

4. The number of single parent families is increasing both because of divorce and because the parents may not have married; and because divorce is often a transition period between marriages, many children relate to two or more sets of parents.

5. More than 50 percent of all women are in the labor force, and more than 30 percent of all women with children under six work outside the home.

6. The stable multi-age community and the extended family have been replaced by communities linked by interests, age and income level. So the traditional support mechanism of the extended family is no longer in place.

7. Many children are cared for outside of the home for part of the day. Some are simply left alone. The babysitter and day care center are as much a part of many American families as the grandmother or aunt used to be.

Despite these and more changes, however, one constant theme appears in consideration of new proposals for family policy and that is - the idea that the family is exceedingly durable. As Joseph Featherstone observes in a recent article in the Harvard Education Review

> ...changes in structure and function and changes in individual roles are not to be confused with the collapse of the family. Families remain more important in the lives of children than other institutions. Family ties are stronger and more vital than many of us imagine in the perennial atmosphere of crisis surrounding the subject.

So, families are HERE TO STAY, as is titled a current sociological study of the family by Mary Jo Bane.

To deal with the problems that most families experience at one time or another and to strengthen the family unit, people need jobs, a decent income and certain social services.

I am very proud that this past January at the beginning of my third year as Governor of Delaware I was able to announce that many of the major obstacles confronting our State in 1976 when I assumed office have been overcome and that "today Delaware is better." Now we can turn our attention to the three fundamental concerns of every Delaware family, better public education, improved human services and increased job opportunities.

In the area of jobs, we continue our active efforts to create a climate which encourages economic expansion and development and which says to the outside world "Delaware wants jobs." This includes legislation to provide tax incentives for businesses to locate in Delaware and programs in the Department of Community Affairs and Economic Development to assist existing businesses and promote tourism.

But, if the people of Delaware are to gain the maximum benefit of this economic development they must have the knowledge and skills needed to take jobs. They must be prepared. The questions that I am always asked as I travel, encouraging business and industry to locate in Delaware, are "Do you have a good education system?" "How strong are your training programs?"

Responding to that message and with a very deep concern for the problem of youth unemployment I have launched an ambitious effort - Jobs for Delaware Graduates - which is scheduled to begin

with the new school year in September. This program will reach every high school senior next year with an intensive focus on job training, counseling and placement. Thus far, we have received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and an appropriation of $500,000 from the general Assembly is anticipated to complete funding. If we are successful, the young person who may very well be unemployed and on the streets will be helped by job counselors and through a highly organized student organization to connect with a meaningful job. I am very optimistic about the chances for success of Jobs for Delaware Graduates. I recognize that a job means everyone gains: the individual, the family, the employer and the State.

Another effort to strengthen the family is through our emphasis on children. It is generally accepted that children who grow up in caring, supportive families learn to provide that same kind of environment for their children.

On the other hand, children who have experienced the insecurity, loss of identity and rejection which comes from being shifted from one home or institution to another cannot offer their children the stability that they themselves have lacked. It has also been amply demonstrated that many of today's abused children grow up to be tomorrow's abusive parents.

This negative cycle must be broken. The Department of Health and Social Services is taking some initiatives to improve its service to children with this objective in mind.

Secretary Patricia C. Schramm has promulgated a policy memorandum which mandates that each child in the Department's care shall have a service plan designed to achieve the greatest possible degree of permanency and stability. The policy states very succinctly that the optimum goal for the child is a return to the parents, previous custodians or other relatives. If a return to family members is not in the best interests of the child, the goals are to be adoption or permanent foster care, in that order.

To make adoption a more feasible alternative for children and prospective parents, the State plans to expand its adoption subsidies. I have supported this in my fiscal 1980 budget.

The policy also provides for case management review, on a regularly scheduled basis, by an interdepartmental committee. The committee has been formulated, and it is preparing to begin its case review functions.

Another initiative which I support and have endorsed in the fiscal 1980 budget is a Child Protective Service Center. When such a center is established, I expect it to devote greater efforts to awareness and prevention and to working with families in order to help them function better.

Obviously, this will take time but, with a strong commitment and the help of the community, I believe our efforts will make a difference.

There are many other departments in the State that establish policies and procedures which, on the surface, might appear to be far removed from family life. In reality, they have a tremendous effect on families. We should examine our actions and policies closely in this regard.

Obviously, we should be encouraging those programs and policies which strengthen family life, and avoiding actions which are detrimental to maintaining a strong family unit.

Despite changes in family composition and life styles, the fact remains that families are here to stay. They are still the bulwark of our society and we must do what we can to keep them strong and healthy.

Public Policy Panel

Pat Nelson: I would now like to introduce Nancy Stokes, President of the Delaware Chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Nancy Stokes: Thank you, Pat. It will be my pleasure to briefly introduce a fine panel that will speak to you about "Translating Ideals into Reality - The Process of Making Your Voice Heard."

Dr. Straka is from the Department of History at the University of Delaware and does serve on this panel as the Delaware Humanities Forum scholar.

Dr. Gerald Straka: I am here as a representative largely of the Delaware Humanities Forum whose placard you can see prominently displayed right in front here. One feature, by the way, of the whole DHF structure, is to provide humanities scholars in the fields of history, of philosophy, literature, political science, sociology (and on and on) to feed into your programs a dimension of philosophy, sociology, history, (or whatever discipline within the area called the humanities) to add something very special to whatever program you have in mind.

The DHF in Delaware has a connection, of course, with the National Endowment for the Humanities. This has all come from that famous 1965 Act which set up federal funding in this and in many other states for support of social groups--social action groups--all the way from churches to just about every nonprofit organization possible.

Now I will come right down to the point of my presence here in this program. I will simply point out to you in whatever organization, or city, or even a neighborhood (if it be no more than a sort of ad-hoc group of neighbors) you belong to feels they desperately have to launch a program dealing, in this case of course with any aspect governing the family--what threatens the family, raising your children in this culture--whatever the related issue might be, you could very well, very easily, apply for a DHF grant. The Delaware Humanities Forum actually thrives on the presentation of all kinds of social, public issues, or for that matter even general issues that affect the entire culture of America. Don't be hesitant about this, it is public money. It is here for you, primarily to foster whatever goals you feel your organization, or your neighborhood, or your church, requires.

Basically, there are four types of grants that one can apply for. Major grants, such as the type of program like this all-day venture, is the top level of application. It is called the regular grant or R grant. The R grant can be as flexible as you like, you can build into it any feature, such as panel discussions like we are having today or key lecturers, or discussion groups of any kind. Be as flexible in the format as possible, and you can be as ambitious as possible. This is a one-day presentation, as you know, but DHF has sponsored many three and four and five-day presentations spread over a longer period of time. So the format of the regular grant is a very flexible one. It's kind of a mammoth operation. You may virtually build your own budget. Usually, of course, we help you with matching funds, or how to identify matching fund areas, and then of course, we would try to help you identify what kinds of humanists, what kinds of scholars, kinds of specialists you would best like to use in your presentation. What kind of dimension would you focus on? Would you like a philosophical dimension, perhaps? I could put you in touch with any number of philosophers who are specialists in the philosophy of the family, and so with sociologists and on and on.

The second level of grant is the mini-grant. This is a very short, smallish $1,000 package. One favorite setting for the mini-grant involves coffees in various homes, a kind of four, five or six or perhaps even ten-week series of programs, discussion groups.

And then the third level is the very small mini-grant at a $500 level. It is a very short program that you apply for and set up in a very short two-week period.

The fourth kind of program, is simply for those of you who might want a specialized speaker. The DHF does run a sort of speakers bureau with 40 or 50 topics available, all in the related fields of history, philosophy, all issues frequently dealing with the family.

How does one apply? The procedure is very simple. You write to 2600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington and you will immediately be gathered into the fold, and every assistance will be provided to help you launch your program.

Again the whole emphasis here is to get issues of any topic that is related to the family out into the public forum. There is sufficient public money for this. Do take advantage of it. Thank you very much.

Nancy Stokes: The way the microphone is set up, we are going to have to play musical chairs. I will next change chairs with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Richard Cordrey of Millsboro. I will be introducing these people to you, not so much personally as by function--since this really is what interests you as people who wish to have some impact on legislation. Senator Cordrey, as President Pro Tempore, serves as a member of the Executive Committee and is chair of Legislative Council. He serves also on the Public Safety Committee, and because he is a Sussex County gentleman and takes what other people do not particularly want, he is chair of Revenue and Taxation--all Senate committees. Without taking more time, I would like to introduce to you Senator Richard Cordrey.

Senator Cordrey: Thank you very much Nancy, I appreciate the privilege of getting up at 5:30 this morning, driving for a couple of hours and coming to New Castle County, and getting ready to go back to Dover. I really do appreciate the invitation. When Nancy extends one, I certainly try to accommodate.

I would like to talk to you for a few minutes if I may on how your voice can be heard either in Dover or Washington and how you should possibly go about doing this. Personally, myself being a Sussex Countian as Nancy told you, when I see a lobbiest and people who are interested in something it is very important to let us know how they feel on each subject.

In my own case, I'm a person from the lower part of the State, I am in the agribusiness and I am certainly no an expert in fields such as Judiciary. I didn't think I was in Finance until I got stuck with Revenue and Taxation, and other fields. I feel that it is very important that people come forward that are well versed in these items and let us know what is going on. I think also the thing that many people do wrong when they're trying to lobby, is to try to lobby on too many things, and not a specific piece of legislation. If there is a specific field that you know, then give productive information to members of the General Assembly either here in Delaware or in Washington and be honest with them at all times. I think that the main thing that really shows up in many, many cases is the fact that you know what you are talking about. We are really in this legislature grasping for information. I even today when I got here, fortunately a few minutes early, was trying to grasp how I should vote on a major piece of legislation in the State of Delaware I know is coming up, and again I end up with two

"for" and two "against", and I still don't know how to vote on this piece of legislation, although if I listened to Nancy she would tell me how I should vote. But I think it is very important that you just don't come up to a legislator and say "Hey, I want you to support this piece of legislation," and walk off and leave me. I think you should come up to a legislator and say, "Hey, I want you to support this piece of legislation because," and give some background as to why you feel that this piece of legislation is very important.

You people living in the State of Delaware are very fortunate, I feel, more so than any other state in the U.S. We are small, 1/12 the size of Chicago, smaller than all the major cities throughout the United States, we are approximately less than 600,000 people--the greatest state throughout the United States. I don't know whose district I am sitting in right now, but I can tell you one thing; if he does not answer to the people in this district, he will not be back in Dover this next year.

In other states I don't think this happens, but it does in Delaware. We are listening to the people in the State of Delaware. Some days when you read the News-Journal, you may get the idea that we aren't listening to you, but we are. We are listening to you because we like our job, we think we are doing a good job, and the only way we can continue to do a good job is to listen to you constituents. When you lose the ear of these people you have lost everything, as far as I am concerned, as far as being a productive legislator.

Nancy, I want to thank you very much for giving me the privilege of coming up to New Castle County on such a beautiful day and I would like to invite everyone, and I mean everyone, to Dover. I feel that it is very important that everyone of you come and see how the General Assembly is run. Don't sit down in Sussex or Kent or the city of Wilmington and depend on the newspapers to report exactly what is going on in Dover. I would like for you to see first-hand what is going on. We are now in the process of extending this to all the youth throughout the State. In the lower county, practically every kid in the fifth and sixth grade this year will visit Legislative Hall and spend the day with us to see how we enact laws in the State of Delaware. Believe me, the people there are very interested in what you have to say. Thank you.

Nancy Stokes: Thank you. There are some people that are technically called "freshman legislators," but really don't fit with the term at all. It is my privilege to introduce next Representative Jane Maroney of the 12th District, who comes to Dover with a background of concern in a number of areas that is making her one of the very effective voices in the legislature. Her committee assignments in the House are Health and Social Services and Constitution.

Representative Jane Maroney: It is a great pleasure for me also to be with you this morning, I would just like to talk a little bit along the same lines that Senator Cordrey has, reflecting our recent activities. There is a very important piece of legislation that is to be hopefully enacted sometime between now and whenever we adjourn for the Easter recess. That may be this evening, that may be tomorrow or Tuesday, who knows. The political process is an ongoing one. In any event, the house did remain in session until well after 9:00 last night, after driving my car pool up to New Castle County in a very badly tuned 5-year-old car, very badly tuned, partially because of our potholes. The roads were just barely passable, the lines on the sides you could just barely see them. I had three very important people, (my colleagues in the House) and I thought, "please let me get them home safely." So by 11:00 the supper was half warm in the oven and my dear better-half had left me a note with the messages that were important to view before going to bed, and then I thought I really haven't had time to make notes for this morning, I thought I would get to that the next five minutes or ten minutes later, but those minutes never came.

Let's just say that the political process is an on-going one, but it is so dynamic, I think I have shared about 20 days in the House and it just seems as though I have been there for ever and ever. But each day is a very great learning experience, and I am really delighted to be here.

I want to address the subject of how to lobby effectively, and I guess the most important word there is effectively. As you know this is a marvelous time for citizen advocacy groups to have their voices heard. The Joint Finance Committee is just getting through six weeks of hearings in each of the three counties and during the sessions that I have attended, no citizen had registered ahead of time with the clerk who was not allowed to speak at the particular meeting or group that was being heard that day. I thought that was a very effective thing.

The most important thing that I would say, if you are really a novice in this area is to know your resources, do come to Dover, but do your homework before you come. Everybody is very busy and has very little time. As you may know, a great many conferences take place in a split second passing in the hall. So before you address how you will lobby, realize what your resources are. Find out, you may not know what election district or what representative district you live in. Find out who that person is, who represents you. It's also very valuable to determine what that person's political party is. If you happen to be registered to vote in that particular party it doesn't hurt. Find out who your Senator and Representative is in the House of Representatives.

Determine what committees each of those people serve on. Then find out who else serves on the committee that you assume that your piece of legislation or your particular interest falls within.

Come with a plan, but come quietly, with a sense of humor and lots and lots of patience. The leader of the party's program I think is one of the best resources of information within the political process and a great deal of help can be deemed from them. I think the first place I was asked to speak out, I was in a four-way primary last summer. This was the first time I have ever run for public office, and believe me, I really picked one foot up and put the other down. You think that because you decide to run in a particular political party, that there are all those resources out there for you. That just isn't so. But that makes it all the more exciting because it is something that you create out of absolutely nothing except your condition--that you do have something to offer and you have the time and commitment to carry that through. Thank you very much. If you do come to Dover, we'd like to see you.

Nancy Stokes: Vicky Kleinman, whom I will introduce to you next, has served in many offices in the League of Women Voters. The thing of primary importance to you, I believe, is that she has clocked enough hours in Legislative Hall to be a bonifide piece of the furniture.

Vicky Kleinman: Thank you, Nancy. That bonified piece of the furniture makes me wonder if that's where the title "Chair" came from.

The topic that we are talking about now is "Translating Ideals into Reality." When we talk about reality, what that really gets down to is one of these things that everybody wants to have, but really does not like to discuss. At the risk of putting you to sleep even though I am going to be up here for only eight minutes, I would like to spend a little time discussing money. Because any program that you might want, any program that as a matter of fact, may be in effect now cannot become effective unless it is reasonably funded.

What does funding mean in the State of Delaware? Well, to make it work--day care, programs for the aging, programs for health and social services that most of you people here are concerned with--you will have to address the problem of how the budget goes into effect. There are three stages really, the way Delaware sets up its budget. First, it goes through the Budget Director's office. The Budget Director holds hearings and puts together a budget which the Governor submits to the General Assembly.

The second stage is the Joint Finance Committee Hearings. The Joint Finance Committee--is made up of both the House and Senate people in the Legislature. They go through the Governor's budget. Rep. Maroney pointed out that those meetings are open, the public is welcome to speak. In fact, unless the Joint Finance Committee hears from their constituents, unless they hear from people who are interested in a particular program, they are much less likely to fund these areas. Wordsfrom constituents, as both Senator Cordrey and Rep. Maroney pointed out, are absolutely vital. Do try to contact the Budget Director's office before they have their hearings in the fall. Do try to contact the Joint Finance Committee before they have their hearings in February or early March, and then you will get a third chance when the budget comes up before the General Assembly itself sometime in May or June--it really varies, sometimes extending way into June 30th which may go to July 1, as I am sure you have heard over the years. But I would urge you to recognize the budgetary process, and do play some role in it. As it has been pointed out, do know your stuff. Remember that there is just a finite amount of money that is in the budget, and that amount is, to take off on Lewis Carroll somewhat, getting "finiter and finiter." You are in a sense competing with all the other programs. You have to defend the program you're interested in. You have to show why your programs are more important than the others. You've got to have information at your finger tips. I really would urge you to remember that legislators command the ultimate source of state funds. Legislators deal with limited resources. They are there, attempting to do as good

a job as they can, but as it was pointed out, the staff is limited and they are responsive and dependent upon lobbyists for better or for worse. That is the situation that exists.

Lobbyists have got to be honest, otherwise they lose their credibility. They have got to be factual, otherwise they lose their credibility, and they have got to be friendly and understanding of the pressures that are on legislators.

I would also echo my panel colleagues and urge you to go to Dover even if you just sit back and watch a few times. It is interesting, it is a new view of government, it is a new view of Delaware and it is an education in itself.

Nancy Stokes: I would like to have one small editorial comment, with the permission of my legislative friends.

We are lately having all over the State all sorts of panels on how properly to lobby, and we're taught all about good manners and everything else. But occasionally you will be caught--not by either one of these--but occasionally, legislators will play a little game with you that would have you going home feeling that the reason that the legislator did not vote for your bill was either because he got too much mail (which was pressure) or he did not get enough (so he doesn't think you care). Before you get caught in a "Catch-22" and go home thinking that it is your fault that he voted wrong, you will have to use a little backbone. Don't take all the blame for how the legislators vote.

At this time, I would like to open for questions.

QUESTION from audience relating to proposed highway expenditures.

Representative Maroney: All pieces of legislation are very important. This one happens to be with the funding of road improvements that you may be familiar with. It is referred to as Project Overhead and it is a rather complicated piece of legislation. We will be attempting to pass the first two phases of it today. The reason for that is normally the budget is passed prior to June 30 of each year and the new fiscal year will begin in July. Under most circumstances the budget has pretty much been eaten away during the course of the year and very few funds are available as the fiscal year wanes. But because we hope to take advantage of the good weather which starts in May, we hope to be able to fund this beginning part of the project now. It is going through its political process in arriving at how these funds will be raised and spent. But the price tag on this alone goes over a three-year-period and amounts to something near $93 million. We are talking about the very first part today. It will be an ongoing process for sometime.

Nancy Stokes: We look forward to seeing you in Legislative Hall. There is, as everybody keeps saying, no substitute for being there.

Our legislators do have to take off for Dover. Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES--ITS HISTORY, PLANS AND PROSPECTS

Rebecca Twilley Gates

As a lifetime Delaware resident, it is a special pleasure for me to be part of the Delaware Family Forum today, representing the White House Conference on Families.

Dr. Pat Nelson, Coordinator of today's Family Forum deserves special commendation for conceiving the idea for a Delaware Families Conference related event and for serving as the catalyst for stimulating the interest demonstrated and input received at today's meeting.

Pat contacted me almost the moment I was hired last June and we have been communicating ever since. But Pat's dream of a Families Conference in Delaware goes further back than last June.

The White House Conference Delaware file shows that Dr. Patricia Nelson had been directing requests for information for states activities to the Conference since 1977. Her persistence and commitment to families provided the impetus for today's meeting.

However, Pat couldn't have done it by herself. I want to congratulate the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service, the Delaware Humanities Forum and the other cooperating agencies and organizations for their sponsorship and planning of the Forum. This meeting is a fine example of a collaborative effort mounted in the interest of families. Your work will certainly pave the way to a Delaware Governor's Conference and to the White House Conference on Families.

My remarks today are intended to serve three primary purposes. The first is to provide you with background that helps explain the genesis of the White House Conference on Families. The second is to share information regarding the status of the Conference and the approaches being taken to carry out this important project. And finally, and most important, I would like to hear from you about what you think the White House Conference on Families should accomplish, what issues you feel are most important and what kind of a format would best accomplish these goals.

The interest of this administration in families can be accurately characterized as being both widespread and long-standing--an interest which was evident in the work of President Carter, Vice President Mondale, and Secretary Califano long before they attained the positions they now hold.

In the fall of 1973, then Senator Walter Mondale remarked to the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Youth at the outset of hearings on American families that, "it has become increasingly clear to me that there is just no substitute for a healthy family--nothing else that can give a child as much love, support, confidence, motivation or feelings of self-worth and self-respect." He further pointed out that we tend to take families for granted, we frequently ignore their strengths--their frustrations--and the important roles they play. The Mondale hearings were instrumental in sensitizing the public to family issues in the early seventies.

This interest was perhaps most powerfully articulated during the 1976 Presidential campaign when families emerged as a primary area of concern. In a campaign address in Manchester, New Hampshire, for example, then Governor Carter said, "There can be no more urgent priority for the next administration than to see that every decision our government makes is designed to honor, support and strengthen the American family."

As a result of the several hundred responses generated by this New Hampshire address, Governor Carter asked Joseph Califano to develop a preliminary report on American families. The document, submitted by Mr. Califano to Governor Carter in fall of 1976, was entitled "American Families: Trends, Pressures, and Recommendations." The report which considered many of the factors influencing the quality of family life, reached the central conclusion that the most severe threat to American families stems from unemployment and lack of an adequate income. In response to this conclusion, the paper--which served as an early "think piece" on families--urged that three steps be taken. The first was to provide parents with job opportunities so they, parents, can provide for their families. The second was to restore trust and confidence in American families as a basic premise of federal policies and programs. Finally, the report urged that there be an increase in efforts to foster greater understanding of the ways in which public and private policies impact on our families. In essence, the paper concluded that the key to putting government in its place was to restore families to their rightful place as the cornerstone of national well-being.

In March of 1977, former families advisor Joe Califano, now HEW Secretary Califano, charged with lead responsibility for the families effort by the President, wrote to numerous organizations, interest groups, and individuals to learn what their views were on key family issues facing our society. This activity parallelled steps being taken by the administration to secure funding for the White House Conference on Families.

In December of 1977 Congress approved the Labor-HEW 1978 budget which included $3 million for the White House Conference on Families. Also in December, again signalling the importance of this project, Secretary Califano shifted the responsibility for the Conference to his immediate office, and efforts began to secure a conference chairman and executive director. As all of you know, Conference planning was set back in June of last year with the resignation of the conference chairperson and executive director. Discussions are now being held with a prospective chairperson and I am hopeful that an announcement will be made on new Conference leadership shortly.

As you would expect, the primary staff activities to date have been developmental in nature. They are, however, being carried out with a clear eye toward the main purpose of the Conference as cited in the Presidential announcement, and I quote, "The main purpose of this White House Conference will be to examine the strengths of American families, the difficulties they face, and the ways in which family life is affected by public policies. The Conference will examine the important effects that the world of work, education, the mass media, the court system, private institutions, and other major facets of our society have on American families."

Our staff is now working to translate the purposes of the Conference into an approach based on some fundamental premises about families. The premises include the following:

1. American families are pluralistic in nature and the Conference process will enhance and build on that pluralism. This means that we have and will continue to reach organizations, interest groups, and individuals from all walks of life to learn what their thoughts and suggestions are concerning the White House Conference and the events that will lead up to it.

2. The White House Conference is a significant opportunity--an opportunity for family members, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to examine the strengths and concerns of families. That opportunity must, however, achieve a balance which reflects input from all these important constitutencies. This perception of the Conference as an opportunity, rather than as only a response to pathology is one that we hope will help set a positive tone for White House Conference activities that will carry-over long after the Conference is held.

3. The White House Conference on Families will concern itself with issues related to children and youth in the context of their roles and functions within families. However, this focus will not supplant a White House Conference on Children and Youth.

4. The White House Conference on Families, though government funded, does not suggest that there is a "government solution" to all the needs of American families. It is vitally important that we recognize that the private sector has an equally important role to play in impacting on and enhancing family life.

As the staff has been engaged in preplanning activities, it has been fascinating to note the tremendous amount of interest that has surfaced about the "family." There have been numerous articles in national magazines, several major television productions, and multiple conferences devoted to the "families" theme. Our office has received thousands of letters from people all over the country voicing interest in the Conference and sharing concern about specific issues. Our staff has been in communication with several national coalitions and several dozen coalitions at the state and local levels that have valuable ideas and expertise. During the past year there has been considerable state activity in preparation for and in some cases, independent of the anticipated White House Conference on Families.

Our office has informally been in touch with individuals in at least half of the 50 states who have come to us for assistance and suggestions. Delaware of course, has been one of these. Connecticut, Louisiana and Maine are a few states that have held meetings similar to this one. Some states, such as Montana and Minnesota, have held statewide governors conferences on families. Wisconsin begins its first level of conference activities next month. Virginia has begun statewide planning meetings for a Governor's Conference in November of this year. Governor Brown has authorized the appointment of a steering committee for a California Conference on Families. Others, Connecticut being a good example, have brought together a consortium of agencies and organizations to plan their activities. It has been heartening to us to know that despite our delays in proceeding in Washington, interest and commitment have not diminished around the country.

For the most part this interest has been constructive attempts to deal realistically with changes as they are occurring and have not been hysterical reactions far removed from the realities of every day life. For the fact is that although the typical American family of the 1980's may indeed vary from that of the White House Conference, it is an opportunity for us to take a

close look at where families are today, where they are headed, and how they are affected, either positively or negatively, by policies, in both the public and private sectors. Even though the specific plans for the Conference have not been formalized, I would like to share with you some of my personal thoughts about what I hope the Conference can achieve and how you, as professionals and lay persons who deal with these issues on a daily basis, can be most effective. First, its important that the Conference stimulate informed discussion about where families are today. As I have already mentioned, the families of the 80's will be far different from the families of the 50's, 60's, or even 70's. To name a few of the changes...we can expect more children with working mothers, more children in one parent homes and in blended families, smaller families, more single, elderly women, and an increase in the total number of households. How are the institutions you are familiar with dealing with these changes in the family?

The implications of the changes are enormous and far reaching, every segment of American life is affected. For example, many supermarkets are now staying open 24 hours, in part a response to the working mothers. But let's look at the institutions many of you deal with. As mothers and fathers spend their days working, when can they help their family members get medical care--are private physicans and public clinics open so mothers or fathers do not have to sacrifice a day's pay to keep their family healthy? Do the schools require parents to attend daytime conferences, again forcing a choice between income and carrying out routine parenting functions? Have local employers made any progress in instituting part-time, flextime and job sharing arrangements? If we value our family and are committed to a society that enhances family life, we must then insure that the institutions that serve families not just continue in the same way they have for decades, but adapt their practices accordingly...lets get even more specific. Each of you, in your daily work, and personal lives come into contact with government policies that impact on families. Can you identify specific policies that are harmful to families, that are disruptive to family stability or make it more difficult for families to function? These policies may deal with far reaching programs such as welfare or health insurance, or they may be less visible, less massive but equally important policies regarding part time employment, transfer policies or subsidized adoption, foster care, etc.

Are there policies which are proven effective in enhancing family life? These, too, we should know about so they can be maintained, increased or improved if necessary, and replicated if appropriate.

I am glad you are looking not only at federal policies but at state and local policies as well. For certainly in the subject area of families, there are many important issues in which the federal government does not have a major role to play, but where the state and local policies are far more important, or have at least equal roles to play. A further consideration in looking at family policy is to identify what it is we don't know--to determine areas in need of additional research.

No final decisions have been made about which issues the Conference will focus on, or about the timetable of activities and Conference events. Therefore, your suggestions would be welcome and timely.

I had hoped when I accepted this invitation to speak that I would have some of this information pertaining to guidelines for the states participation in the White House Conference. Because we are still waiting for the announcement of the new chairperson, executive director, and national advisory committee that is not possible. But I would like to take advantage of my being here to hear some of your ideas about the Conference.

White House Conferences are not new to most of you. Some of you undoubtedly have been involved in previous White House Conferences on Children and Youth, Aging or Handicapped. What suggestions do you have from these experiences? How can the White House Conference on Families be best used to benefit your clients or your families and your communities?

I'd very much like to hear your thoughts and exchange ideas.

Thank you for inviting me to speak here today.

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service
Presents..

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Adapted from Materials Prepared by the
Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service

139 Slides, w/Script & Audio
Cassett (12 min.)

	1	
	2	
	3	
credit slide	4	
planet earth	5	Currents of progress, swirling across the economic and social face of the world today,
globe	6	are bringing a different tone and tempo to our times.
Title: Winds of Change	7	These "Winds of Change," borne on the wings of technology and an explosion of knowledge, increase our ability
used car lot	8	to produce an abundance of material goods,
grocery store	9	to raise our standards of living,
night lights	10	and to alter our environment.
group scene	11	But the price of progress is high. Individuals and institutions often must bend and blend to get continued support from society.
family unpacking dishes	12	Nowhere has the stress created by change been more evident than in the American family--a basic component of our social structure.
ring silhouette	13	In the past, the family's role was defined by traditional standards,
main street	14	supported by stable communities that remained relatively unchanged from one generation to the next.
mother & daughter	15	Home was not only a shelter but also a refuge;
infant baptism	16	A center for social, religious, and vocational learning
tucking in shirt	17	and a place to draw on the support, wisdom, and concern of others.

pioneer family	18	The responsibilities of family members were also neatly cataloged--
man working baby in bath father & daughter	19 20 21	man was to provide, woman to nurture, and children to learn from their adult models.
grandparents	22	Sometimes the family included grandparents and other relatives, living in close proximity, who helped reinforce the values of honesty, thrift, and rugged individualism.
new breed family	23	But the winds of change have produced a new array of complex social and economic conditions.
new family meal	24	Today's families are trying to meet new needs and recognize new lifestyles.
Delaware farm scene	25	In many rural areas, these changes come more by <u>evolution</u> than revolution as traditions yield quietly to the pressures of progress.
family through window	26	Many times, we seem to have taken the family for granted.
collage of faces	27	Today, the time has come for us to talk about where we are, where we want to go, and how we can get there.
family at picnic table couple with strollers	28 29	First, we must recognize that the traditional "nuclear" family-- a bread-winning father, homemaking mother, and sheltered children--is <u>no longer</u> a typical life-style.
title: nuclear 13%	30	Nationally, only one American family in eight now fits this nuclear pattern.
title: child-free 23%	31	About one-fourth of our homes consist of married adults living in a childless or post child-rearing environment. Many of our young adult couples are purposefully non-parents, partially because they believe parenting is not worth the effort.
title: dual 16%	32	Children still are an important part of another type of family where both parents are bread-winners.
title: single parent 16%	33	And children often become the central focus in those families maintained by a single parent.
title: single adult 21%	34	Another one-fifth of our households are handled by older single adults--persons who are widowed, separated, or divorced.

title: extended family 6%	35	This tends to reduce the number of "extended" families once considered prevalent across the nation that include live-in grandparents and other older relatives.
title: experimental 4%	36	Experimental families of unmarried adults and groups, frequently featured in the media, also account for a small percent of our households.
collage of family types	37	This variety of lifestyles today shows that it is no longer possible to generalize about the typical family--because one simply does not exist.
beehive cubicles	38	Each lifestyle has its own unique set of characteristics, and each must meet the existing social pressures. Is it even possible to define the family today? A definition from the American Home Economics Association states... "The family is a unit of two or more persons who share resources, share responsibility for decisions share values and goals and have commitment to one another over time. The family is that climate that one "comes home to" and it is this network of sharing and commitments that most accurately describes the family unit, regardless of blood, legal ties, adoption or marriage."
puzzle collage	39	It is impossible to neatly classify all of the interlocking forces that have impact on today's families
six faces	40	But a quick look at some trends may be a starting point for a thoughtful focus on the family.
women walking	41	One such trend, having a major impact on the American family, is the rapid movement of women into the work force during the past two decades.
old-fashioned stove	42	The hand that once baked the bread, kept the house, and rocked the cradle--
at typewriter	43	now also punches the typewriter,
grocery check-out	44	sells consumer goods,
at office desk	45	makes administrative decisions,
hard hat	46	works in construction,
singer	47	entertains,
lab scene	48	does research,
at podium	49	and shares ideas.

home ec class	50	Education,
individuals collage	51	emphasis on individual rights,
multi-flash exercise	52	and freedom to achieve have all contributed to broadening opportunities for women.
at podium	53	Now, 48 percent of all adult women are a part of the working world.
women with child	54	This includes both women who must work to support their single parent households, and--
secretary	55	wives who seek careers outside the home to boost family buying power,
woman at computer	56	use their special talents, and achieve self-satisfaction. Paul C. Glick, senior demographer with the U.S. Census Bureau, suggests that postponement of marriage, lower birth rates and greater numbers of working wives have had a beneficial effect on family life.
		According to Glick, delaying marriage increases the chances "that a rational choice of marriage partner will be made at a more mature age," and a delay in childbirth is a factor associated with fewer children and fewer unwanted children.
		Glick suggests that a drop in family size gives parents more time to devote to each child. For many working mothers the time spent with their children is one of the most pleasurable and "looked-forward-to" parts of their day.
black couple at table	57	Movement from the home into careers is related to another trend--the continuing search for new role definitions by both men and women.
flowing hair	58	All are freer to search for new feelings, emotions, and sensitivity.
female talk session	59	It means exploring the ways they think and act.
couple talking	60	Obviously men and women must cooperate in working out the role adjustments needed
man w/baby at stove	61	to handle household chores,
stereo equipment	62	make family financial decisions,
mother spanking	63	discipline the children,
office conference	64	cope with direct competition on the job,
father babysitting	65	and modify previous role expectations.

reading on playground	66	Another trend for working parents with children is the necessity to share child rearing with outside caretakers.
opening door	67	At the pre-school age, child care may be provided
inside center	68	at in-home nurseries,
playground scene	69	at day care centers,
black grandmother & baby	70	or by available relatives.
girl at blackboard	71	For older children the elementary school teacher may become a daytime babysitter.
boy on girder	72	Still there are often many hours when these youngsters
girl on bicycle	73	are unsupervised and must "shift for themselves."
looking through fence	74	Some look to the community in search of people--
scout group	75	they join groups like scouts, 4-H, and church youth;
running in park	76	go to the parks and libraries;
ballet lessons	77	and take "culture" lessons.
unlocking door	78	Far too many become latch-key children, who let themselves into an empty, silent house
wistful girl	79	which offers little consolation for one who needs the company of another with whom to share the day's activities.
TV and snacks	80	Only TV breaks the silence, and snack foods fill the empty feeling.
rec hall scene	81	If lonely youth must have companionship, they often turn to their peers.
4-H campfire	82	This may provide wholesome experiences and activities,
group of youth	83	or the youth may drift into delinquent behavior, such as
pinball machines	84	truancy,
broken window	85	vandalism,
putting book in jacket	86	or shoplifting
hippie couple	87	When the neglected children reach teenage they may rebel against any remaining family authority.

girl alone in diner	88	They may drop out of school;
youth hitchhiking	89	Run away from home;
group setting	90	Seek identity with a group;
picket sign	91	Protest constantly against the establishment;
boy drinking	92	Turn to alcohol,
heroin needle	93	drugs,
couple hugging	94	or sex;
street fighting	95	Become involved in street crime and violence;
girls planting flowers	96	Drift between low-paying jobs and unemployment.
		We need to think together about the after-school child care options we can give working parents. Paul Glick suggests that the trend in flexible working hours is just beginning to break, and flexi-time may well become an established option of the future.
couple at beach	97	Perhaps it is the trend toward adolescent sexual permissiveness that shocks parents most.
girl in red dress	98	Youth have learned that sex offers them a special way to get the attention, affection, and acceptance often missing in their families.
hands in hair	99	A 1975 survey showed that half of the 21 million adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 had been sexually active.
pregnant girl	100	As a spin-off of this new sexual freedom more than 1 million girls, 15 to 19 years old, get pregnant each year. Only one-fifth are married.
clipping on abortion	101	About one-third of these teenage pregnancies are terminated through abortion.
baby and mother	102	Few of the 600 thousand live babies from teenage pregnancies are given up for adoption.
baby and mother	103	So growing numbers of unwed mothers are trying to maintain a single-parent family. At best, they are ill-equipped to assume this responsibility.
hand on head	104	Divorce is another trend that is growing faster in the United States than anywhere else in the world.
side view of woman	105	The divorce rate has doubled in the last decade. One-third of recent first marriages may end in divorce.

fighting couple	106	Two major factors are apparent. First, many people fail to handle what is expected of both marriage and the nuclear family.
fighting couple	107	Second, divorces are simply easier to get these days. If the marriage is clearly not working, the unhappy couple splits.
sad woman	108	Not all aspects of divorce are negative, but it often creates a disruptive and emotion-draining personal crisis, as well as many single-parent families. The good news is that after a decade of divorce rates doubling, the rates have levelled off in the last 2 years.
mother talking to child	109	Women are most often the bread-winners in families of divorce.
walking down road	110	Many single caretaker mothers cannot find adequate employment to make financial ends meet, so they frequently must go to social service agencies for help.
baby crying	111	Even those women who can find work may have few emotional resources left at the end of the day to nurture, love, and laugh with their children.
appliance department	112	Beyond the changes in form and structure, families must also cope with many new economic and environmental concerns. The events at Three Mile Island are fresh in our minds.
shoe department	113	For most Americans the impact of rising costs and inflation on family finances is a pressing concern.
fisheye of center	114	The confusing array of consumer goods complicates the process of making the right decisions while making ends meet.
lingerie window	115	Yet advertising and the mass media lead us to believe that the "good life" depends on possession of more and more things.
used car lot	116	As a result, many people labor under the yoke of installment payments, ignore the need for savings,
moving van	117	and move often in search of better-paying jobs.
"dangers" of stress	118	The pressures of modern living are also reflected by alarming signs of physical and mental stress.

hospital scene	119	Cardiovascular diseases--heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, and hypertension--are becoming more familiar to us all.
man eating	120	Indications are that these health problems are closely related to improper diet and lack of exercise.
old woman at grocery	121	There are also special concerns about the health, housing, and care for the 10 percent of our population that is now aged 65 years or older.
solar house	122	Living space for everyone is becoming a problem because of increasing costs for energy, building materials, and home furnishings.
clipping: "family"	123	In light of all these changes, current family lifestyles require new ways of looking at individual needs.
family on couch	124	We can no longer expect families to make all the adjustments alone.
discussion group	125	As a society we need to think about providing:
switchboard	126	--Someone to talk to
social worker	127	--Someone to care
play school scene	128	--More care for kids
multi-couple family	129	--Re-definition of roles and relationships
picnic w/twins	130	In short, our new families require:
newspaper clippings	131	--new understanding
rest home meal	132	--new support
checkbook battle	133	--new ways to cope.
title: Family Forum	134	This Delaware Family Forum is a vehicle for us to put a new focus on the families in our own communities.
group scene	135	Let's start today by sharing our concerns.
hands on table	136	Stand up!
at podium	137	Speak out!
at table	138	
Audience scene	139	We're listening!

Mary Ann Finch: We're so glad to have every one of you here. We are most grateful for the cooperation and support you have given this day. Your input has made it very valuable.

We're most pleased to have with us this afternoon Richard deLone. As you can see from your programs, Richard is vice-president of the Corporation for Public and Private Ventures in Philadelphia. He has had a very interesting career, and I think sometimes when we're listening to speakers, it's nice to know what kinds of backgrounds they come from. Richard was a reporter with the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, he also was a special assistant for the superintendent of schools for the Philadelphia School District. He was an Alfred North Whitehead Fellow at the Graduate School of Education at Harvard, and a lecturer at the University of Massachusetts. He has been assistant commissioner for education in charge of training for the City of New York, where he worked in drug addiction. He has also been the associate director of the Carnegie Council on Children. He has received a Ford Foundation grant for a publication he is writing on the third sector. He has his A.B. in English from Harvard, his M.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and his doctoral work is at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Mr. Richard deLone....

Richard deLone: Thank you very much Mary Ann. I am honored to be here and have this chance to talk to you, not only because it is nice to be invited to this important event, but because it is sponsored ultimately by the National Endowment for the Humanities. I am particularly honored because about a year ago I was asked to speak on a panel in a forum that was also funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. About two days before this conference was to begin, the organizer called me up and said that he was terribly sorry but he was going to have to cancel me out. I asked why, and he said, "we submitted our list of participants to the National Endowment and they said there are not enough humanists on the panel." So apparently there had been a federal review somewhere and it was determined at that point that I was not a humanist. I guess that status has been changed. I hope I will get a plastic card or something to certify when I am finished.

Since this is a humanists' event I thought some poetry might be in order and I composed a little poem on the way down this morning which I think is topical. It both refers to items that have been in the news recently that are the concern for us all and it also makes some reference to the changing nature of the American family, about which we have heard and about which we are talking. It goes like this:

> I think I hope that I shall never see a
> nuclear power plant or family.

So much for humanism.

The topic that I have been asked to speak on is a nice narrow one, Policy and the Family, and I know how narrow it is because when I worked with the Carnegie Council on Children for several years we spent, I think, at least a year and a half trying to define what children were. We spent an equal amount of time trying to decide what families were as soon as we realized that children were, among other things, something that lived in families. We spent an enormous amount of time trying to decide in all seriousness where you draw the boundaries around a concept like family policy because in fact there is very little that happens in society that doesn't affect families and children. Where do you draw that boundary, whether for discussion, to talk about policy or to try to take action? I am not sure we ever satisfactorily answered that question. It is one that we have played with all throughout our life as an independent study commission, funded by the Carnegie Council, essentially representing no one but the group of people--some academics, some not, some commission members, some staff members--who had the good fortune and the leisure and the very rewarding experience to spend a couple of years trying to look very hard at some of the same kinds of questions that you are looking at here today. Some of the same kinds of questions that the White House Conference on Families will no doubt be looking at and that many other groups around the country are now looking at because there certainly is one of these periodic upwellings of interest in concern of the family and what it is and where it is going and what ought to be done about it, if anything.

To come back to the topic, "Policy and the Family." Having almost despaired at having to define policy and the family is even harder, so I went to Websters, and there were about 17 definitions for policy in Websters but two of them seem particularly appropriate. Definition 4a is that "policy is prudence for wisdom in the management of public or private affairs," and definition 5a is "that policy is a definite course of actions selected by a government among alternatives to guide present and future action."

Now if you think about those two definitions, prudence or wisdom in the management of public affiars and the definite course of action selected by government, you realize that they very rarely coincide; but that is what we hope, that is what we are looking for.

Family is harder to define, and it is seriously harder to define because it is on one hand such an emotion laden and

value-charged word, and it is funny that such a word could be a slogan like peace and motherhood, yet provoke such disagreement and such conflict and such dispute, but it does. The difficulties of getting the White House Conference on Families organized and off the ground have been the testimony to that, there has been a lot of politicking back and forth. What kind of person should be a staff director, what sort of family they should have, what should the conference's terrain cover?

It seems to be that the question of what is a family depends very much on how you approach it and how you define it and there are a lot of different ways to do that. I would suggest a few that are common and are germane to think about one way or another in talking about public policy.

One kind of definition is the family as a sort of idealized norm--typically the norm that we most think about is the family that doesn't exist any more and perhaps never existed as much as we thought it did. The nuclear family with the husband who is the breadwinner and the wife who is the homemother--the homemaker and the two children who were following their role models. It is not clear how many families ever had their experience in America characterized that way. But that certainly has been one kind of definition of the family and it hovers over much of our thinking and much of the politics and much of the policy of people who are trying to do something about families in the public arena.

My own feeling and I think the feeling of many others from Carnegie Council is that while the family is an ideal and is for each of us an important ideal, when it becomes a public ideal it often becomes dangerous. It becomes an effort through the state to impose very often one group's sense of what a family ought to be on another group or to judge some other group negatively because they depart from someone's idealized norm.

Probably no simpler or clearer example of that exists than studies that we have looked at as students. You probably know the questions of dispositions in family court situations in which children get separated from parents by court decrees and which ones don't. One of the strongest predicters of separation tends to be how different is the family from that idealized nuclear model that we have. That is an example of taking an ideal, putting government behind it, and creating more often than not, mischief.

Another kind of thing that a family certainly is for me and I suspect for most people here is a source of meaning in my own life. It is a source of happiness and it is also a source of struggle. It is a refuge, it is also a hot house; but out of my dealings in that family (however, I define it-- certainly most immediately my wife and children in my case, but also relatives and sometimes even friends are almost part of the family). A lot of the meaning of my every day life is tied up in that. I think that is very important, that is the family as a private ideal and in my view that is something that we want to support. We want people to be able to make meaning in their own lives, in their own families. Again, we don't want policy to try to determine what that meaning should be or tell people how to do it.

A very different way to look at family, but a logically and important way is as a unit, a unit of social organization around which services can be organized and delivered. Many of you are in that business, have to talk about the natural configuration, the importance of looking at the family as a whole unit and thinking about the family as a recipient, as a little subsystem for the services and activities that you are engaged in.

It is also the social institution for raising children, the family in all of its many definitions in names and shapes and forms.

But finally and I think perhaps we don't pay as much attention to this, the family is a social configuration in response to changing economic and social conditions, while we all sort of know this in the back of our head, I don't think we think very much about how much the roles in the family and the nature of the family (and whether it is an extended family or a nuclear family or a blended family or a single parent family) are in fact products of time and history and large social courses in economic change. When you think about it I am not sure that we often carry that thought through to saying "What then should you do about it?" But I think that is a very important way of thinking about it and looking at the family and to which I will return.

In what I have to say here I am not going to try to talk about all families or all family issues, I want to focus (because it is where the Carnegie Council work focused and where what knowledge I may have comes to bare) on the family as a place for raising children. To me that is a little bit the reverse of how the Carnegie Council tended to think about it. We started thinking about children first. Then we came around to saying, well to be sure there are children without families, and serious

children's issues that are not family issues as such, and there are often occasions where the welfare of children and the family itself, or the parents at any rate could diverge (there are such things as bad parents, there are families that shouldn't be allowed to stay together for the sake of the children--although I think the burden of proof is a very heavy one in those circumstances). We started to think more and more, that the most important set of issues and concerns did have to do with families and the kind of place a family is for children to grow up.

Secondly, as we thought, we came more and more to the conclusion that while this is a time of change and turmoil for all families in America, the greatest unfinished business and the greatest issue that we have to face is that the families who have the most strain, the most stress, the most needs and are least well served by our society, tend to be poor families, very often minority families. The economic status remains a very central issue. Low income families in general need to remain a renewed and continued focus of public policy inimicable as these times are, if you are talking about seriously dealing with that issue.

Finally, we have looked at the family as a unit that forms in response to social and economic conditions. We have tried to think about policy in that perspective. How do you deal with those social and economic conditions so that families have the resources and the freedom and the possibility to make their own meaning and make their own choices, and make their own lives in as much as possible?

Obviously, another question is whether or not we have a family policy in the United States today. I think it can be answered either yes or no--plausibly either way. It is not very hard to argue that we don't, that we have a patchwork of programs, we have a lot of blind spots; that if we have a policy at all, it is a policy by default and that we often confuse a series of moral homilies for what a family policy should be. Perhaps that is not really fair, there are people who argue the other way, that we do have a policy that is concerned primarily, though not exclusively, with poor families, more specifically to the casualities of poverty and of racism and of other social pathologies in our system. It has primarily been a policy based on services and a full range of human services, most of which are represented in this room today. Most of us who have worked in that system realize that it is a policy that gets us always doing repair jobs, always wishing we could have been there sooner, and always seeming to be a little bit too late. Every time we have one success there are two more problems rearing their heads. Most of us realize that what we are able to do under that policy comes hard. The money is often

niggardly, it is not funded well. It is often not administered well and somehow or other when our programs don't work with the things that we are doing and don't solve all the problems, frequently we have a habit of turning around and saying, "Well, you see, its those people who are helpless and hopeless." It is a policy that has been plagued by our American tendencies (and not a very appealing one) to blame the victim, as William Ryan has put it in an elegant book by the same title.

I want to talk a little bit about what has been our policy, and what I would call the unfinished agenda. I would rather talk about what was the focus of work with the Carnegie Council, which was the policy we don't have, which I will call the New Agenda, what we began to think about as being most important and necessary to compliment and complete the policy that we do have.

I am not going to say much then about the unfinished agenda and the issue of a whole variety of human service needs, particularly those that are very often first and foremost in talking about family policy and children's policy. I think we all know in this room that that agenda is very much unfinished and not done well. It is a little bit like the story of the farmer who was out plowing his field with a horse and the young agricultural extension agent, fresh from college, came out to talk to him about how he ought to go off and take an extension course so he could improve his methods a great deal. The farmer scratched his head and said "Why should I go to school. I ain't doin half as good already as I know how." I think we know that we don't have to look very far for these kinds of examples.

I can think of two areas where there really is consensus and not much controversy. It is very hard to find someone in America who doesn't believe there ought to be a quality education for all children. I don't think it is very easy to find people in America who don't believe there ought to be decent health care available for all children. And yet, we haven't really provided these. Look, for instance, at early screening prevention protection treatment programs. There was a study done by the Children's Defense Fund in 1970 of ESPDT and it's implementation. Here is a good idea that is just not being done half as well as we know how. Of the 13 million children who are eligible for screening under this program, which is targeted primarily on low income children, only 25 percent were actually screened. Of those who were screened, almost none received follow-ups.

Of a million children who were diagnosed as having health problems in need of some care 60 percent got no care. When Secretary Califano proposed the Child Health Assessment Program as a way to really try to improve implementation of that program, it has run into great difficulties in Congress because of the economic times we live in. There is one very clear example of the unfinished agenda that ought to be finished.

School is another. Nobody believes that good schooling shouldn't be available to all children. Again, you look at a variety of sources and I draw again on the Children's Defense Funds study of children suspended and excluded from school. They estimate that about five percent of school-age children in this country are not in school. That is about 2 million kids. They estimate that another five percent are theoretically enrolled in school but are absent for a quarter of a year or more, so one could argue whether they are getting schooling or not. A number of studies suggest that we may have in this country as well, a very serious problem of misclassification of young people (as retarded when they are really not; slow learners when in fact they could learn well; and of kids who get tracked and sorted into classes which are not really appropriate for them or in which they don't learn much). To sum up the various kinds of evidence that is around, you can make a case, I believe, that 10 to 15 percent of the children in this country who are of school age (a total of some 4 to 6 million kids) are either not getting school or are getting schooling that effectively prepares them for nothing. That is another example of what the unfinished agenda is.

When all is said and done and when all the problems that you and I know about how you really gear up and improve and implement those programs humanely for this very complicated society that we have (where the size and scale of what we do induces so much manmade complexity in the bureaucracies and regulation and management for our systems)--hard as it is to do all of that, it is not enough.

If we are really going to have a family policy that supports families before the fact, not after the fact, and that maximizes the number of families who have that ability to make meaning out of their own life, and to choose, and to live just in very simple terms "a good life," we are going to need a new agenda--which is probably harder to develop than finishing off the old one. I don't come with any panacea or cheery answers about what can be done tomorrow. But I think that is the burden of what we really came to at the Carnegie Council. Over a long period

of time the policy that we have had has been inadequately implemented and insufficient. It needs to be embedded in a larger agenda, in one where all these questions that I mentioned before (about where do you draw the line around family and say what is family policy, and where do you or I with our limited ability to influence things make an impact of this kind of scale) are addressed.

We do have to start thinking about the larger social and economic forces which shape our society and which shape families and children in that society. We have to think about those forces and structures on one hand, and part of doing that, I would argue, isn't a federal issue at all. We have to think about how we think about children and families. It is an area where we always have to be very careful of the assumptions that we let slip in. We also have to think beyond our formal academic disciplines in ways that try to think about child development and child welfare or about the meaning of the family.

In a shorthand way of summarizing some of the problems in thinking about families and children (it doesn't really do justice to the complexity of these issues, but I will use it anyway) I will suggest that there are some myths which are very prominent and prevalent in parts of our culture and parts typically of our policy debates and sometimes of our academic discussions, and sometimes of your work and mine on a day-to-day basis, that stand between us and the development of what I am calling the "new agenda."

One of those is the notion that somehow or other the family either is a self sufficient unit or if it is not then, it should be. I think the analysis is as old as John Dewey and the progressives 60 or 70 years ago, but we still haven't figured out how to come to grips with the fact, that far from being self-sufficient, the family is increasingly the parent, particularly in dealing with children, is at best a coordinator of a whole host of other services and activities. In fact, the ability of most parents to really coordinate and to have any voice or authority in trying to orchestrate all the institutions that intimately affect their children is very limited. It is limited for me and for you. It is even more limited for people who have less advantages, less privileges, less resources, less time to play that restricted role than it is for us. In a large historical time span, we have said time and time again (either in fancy language or scientific language, either in moral language or in psychological language) that the reason the poor are not self-sufficient is because they are somehow deficient.

A fairly recent historical example would be the prevalent notion in the late 60's that there was something pathological about the black family, that it was an unstable family unit in some way, that there was a tradition of matriarchy, which was a bad thing in our society. That was a very popular theory supported by some leading social scientists only ten years ago. Now we are finding out that in many ways the pattern of the female-headed household that was then characteristic of many black families is becoming more and more that of white families. Nobody is suggesting that we have a matriarchal tradition, however. We have seen monumental historical studies like Gutman's work, which has shown how clearly that black family was over time an enormous source of strength, and not a source of pathology. We have had anthropologists look more closely at that and say "What is a matriarchy anyway?" "Whatever it is, this isn't it." Then we have had careful empirical studies from people like Isabel Sawhill and Heather Ross of the Urban Institute. You find out that when you look at issues like family dissolution--break-up, divorce, separation--the main difference in rates between blacks and whites gets explained by differences in the employment and unemployment rate by the head of the households. All of a sudden we have to start rethinking again, what is it that makes differences in families. Where do those differences come from? Is it because this family doesn't have the internal stuff to make it or is it that the external situation forces the use of responses and adaptations?

Another kind of myth which has been very central--I think in part because so much of our policy has been family policy, children's policy concerned about poor people, low-income families--is the myth of equal opportunity. I don't mean simply the myth that says that we have it in this society, but the myth that is attached to it which is a whole theory about how you can equalize opportunity in our society primarily by making sure that individuals typically get the schooling, the learning and so forth so they can take equal care of advantages.

I would like to read you something that comes out of some of my own work at the Council and is in fact the opening section of a book that I have written for them. This briefly describes the life situations of two hypothetical children, they are not real kids, but the data that I have drawn on here is very real data and covers a whole host of studies. It says this:

> Jimmy is a second grader, he pays attention in school and he enjoys it. The school records show that he is reading slightly above grade level and has a slightly better than average IQ score.
>
> Bobby is a second grader in the school across town, he also pays attention in class, enjoys school and his test scores are quite similar to Jimmy's.

> Nobody knows for certain what will happen to these two boys when they grow up but we have a pretty good idea what the odds are. Bobby is a safe bet to enter college, more than four times as likely as Jimmy. He is good bet to complete it--at least 12 times as likely as Jimmy. In all probability Bobby will have at least four years more schooling than Jimmy. He is 27 times as likely as Jimmy to land a job which by his late forties will pay an income in the top 10 of all incomes. Jimmy has about one chance in eight of earning a medium income. These odds are the arithmetic of inequality in America. They can be calculated with the help of a few more facts about Bobby and Jimmy. Bobby is the son of a successful lawyer whose annual salary of $35,000 puts him well in the top ten percent of earners in the United States in 1976. Jimmy's father, who did not complete school, works from time to time as a messenger or a custodial assistant. His earnings at right about the minimum wage put him in the bottom 10 percent.

I think the point is clear in that little vignette describing two kids who are, as it were, controlled for ability and interest and aptitude in school. When you do control for those factors, what difference does social position, social origin make? It is an enormous difference, as those odds suggest. To be sure some Jimmies make it up to the top and some Bobbies flop down to the bottom, but basically as study after study really establishes quite clearly, the deck is very much stacked. The odds affecting intergenerational mobility and upward mobility haven't changed much in this country for 130 years, and there is a lot of evidence to suggest that we very rarely come to grips with that. We have said that we can make these individuals more equal. One hundred and fifty years ago we said, we will do it with schools. Now we say we will do it with preschool programs, infant nutrition programs, whatever. We are constantly mixing up the services that are important in themselves--pre-schools, day care, early childhood education, good nutrition--we are mixing it up and confusing it constantly with striving to do something about the inequality built into the social structure and fabric of our society. This has an enormous influence on the lives and prospects and the likely futures of children. It has an enormous shaping influence as well on the day-to-day interactions and possiblities of families and they are all related.

Another kind of myth is the notion that government and business either should or do stay out of family matters. Now, I'll just say briefly on that point that whether you think they should or shouldn't, they can't. Because the family is such a basic institution all sorts of governmental decisions and all sorts of economic changes and forms of economic organization do in fact influence and affect the family.

If you go to that sort of large level of macroanalysis, how do you come out of it? How do you come out the other end? I am going to skip several hoops in my remarks because I realize I am taking longer than I had planned.

To summarize briefly, where we came out at the Carnegie Council on Children was that in addition to looking at the continued important issues of services (of how you deliver them, how you do them well, how you do them in a way that responds to the changing configuration of the family), we have got to think of family policy as being intricately bound up with full employment, welfare reform (which is part and parcel with tax reform--in our view you can't separate the two very well). We want to put a minimum floor under every family, that actually redistributes income in this society, where income is very unequally distributed and has been (as the distribution has been constant for at least 30 years). This conjunction of employment strategies and income redistribution strategies, welfare reform, tax reform, and affirmative action programs certainly are the best chance to create a society in which families do have the kind of resources and the ability to maximize their own choices to make their own meanings and to lead their own lives. I find that it comes back, I guess, to the question of values. You hear arguments about what is this going to do to the economic growth or the GNP over and against whatever else. I guess at that point finally you come down to rock bottom-- what you believe is more important. Is it a slight increase in GNP or is it a slight increase in human welfare of people who are able to lead and make their own lives under conditions of decency? If that is really a trade-off, you can't have your cake and eat it too, then I certainly opt for the latter and I hope you do to. Thank you.

QUESTIONS: Did your study look at all at what the effects of desegregation might have on changing what you might say, "the pre-arranged destinies" of young children?

ANSWER: Some. I think it depends on what effects you are talking about. I honestly myself do not believe that desegregation is likely to do a great deal about changing economic status over time or even school performance.

My own feeling is that the argument for desegregation rests in other areas--in what kind of society you have and how you want people to relate to each other. That is the kind of thing that you don't prove too well one way or the other by data.

I would say that probably most studies that try to look for--lots of people dispute this, there is a lot of argument about this, as you know--but look for big improvements in school performance or think that you can translate those improvements in school performances in a straightforward way to gains twenty years in the future when you are an adult, that evidence doesn't exist.

WORKSHOP 1

Families and Their Children
Moderator: Edgar Huffman, Executive Director
Delaware League for Planned Parenthood

1. Trends in Family Characteristics - Bonnie Springer, Consultation and Education Unit, Southern New Castle County Community Mental Health, Division of Mental Health, DHSS

2. Single Parenting - Michelle Burroughs

3. Adolescent Parenting - Diane Smith, Family Planning Social Worker Consultant, Division of Public Health, Family Planning in Dover.

4. Day Care - What Kinds of Experiences is it Providing for Young Children? Diane Nichols, Director, Newark Day Nursery

DHF Scholar - Janet E. Kilbride, Ph.D., Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware

Workshop Coordinator - Bonnie Springer

Bonnie Springer touched on various definitions of the family. She defined the family as: (a) two or more persons related by blood living together; (b) two or more persons providing support, protection and nurturing for one another.

New values, options and opportunities are available in the family configuration, for the nuclear family is no longer viewed as the norm in family models. Of today's families:

15.9% are nuclear
18.5% mother/father with one child
6.2% female model household
.6% male model household
5.3% male and female relatives living with the family
2.5% unrelated persons living together
30.5% married childless couples
20.6% single person household of which 18% are 65 years of age and under poverty level

In 1955 - 26% of wives were working
1976 - 45% of wives with labor force
also by 1976 - 10 million children were living with one parent. Broken down to usable statistics, it comes to one out of every six children in this sort of family.

Retired couples more than doubled between 1955 and 1976.

Single Parenting

Michelle Burroughs is a single parent living on welfare and partly supplementing her income with a job. She has no sick benefits and if she is off from work one day due to illness, she loses $15.00. Ms. Burroughs is involved with the Head Start and Big Brothers Programs.

As a single parent, Ms. Burroughs sees one of her major problems as finding decent housing. With an income of only $440.00 a month, the housing selection is extremely limited. Also, family size and living on welfare often serve as barriers, as landlords are reluctant to rent to people in these situations.

The three to four month's waiting list for Big Brothers and availability of day care also are of concern to this single parent. Finally, her present job is soon terminating, leaving her with little security for the future.

Day Care

Diane Nichols' presentation touched on the various types of day care, the concerns involved, and factors to be considered by the parents when selecting day care. Day care can be classified in two types: home care or day care center. Home care usually involves no more than 12 children while day care centers are usually much larger. The programs vary according to the resources available. The day care may be as little as providing eating and sleeping facilities with no outside stimulation or it may include a well planned program with numerous activities for the children to participate in. Ms. Nichols viewed the major concerns involved in day care as:

1. safety
2. entertainment
3. type of care - infants to elementary

One-third to one-half of the day care facilities are licensed with the State Director. For low income children, 25% of day care is provided by the State and 75% comes from Federal resources.

When selecting a day care facility, the following factors should be considered:

1. cost
2. accessibility - closeness to home, work, etc.
3. program offered - adult ratio per child, activities for child
   *Often this is the least considered factor by parents who must work and must have day care.
4. rich oral language - environment should be geared to enriching child's oral language development.
5. staff - the staff is a leading indicator of the quality of the program

Adolescent Parenting

Diane Smith reported that teen marriages have a high rate of failure. Three out of five teens who marry often end up divorced, especially if the marriage started with a pregnancy.

Teen pregnancy is the number one cause of high school dropouts. The pregnancy usually results from ignorance, although 60% of the teens who end up pregnant do indeed want to be pregnant. Twenty-two percent of the teens who become pregnant, become a parent before becoming an adult.

The DAPI program helps pregnant teenagers to continue their education and give them additional education on child care. Unfortunately, social and financial problems still exist for these teens. They must depend on State and their family for support and often the family causes the greatest amount of stress for the teen.

Janet E. Kilbride, the DHF Scholar identified some of the major problems involving families and their children today.

1. Changing values cause confusion for the parents and children.
2. The system is punishing the children via regulations.
3. The indirect effect of the system can be harmful to children.
4. The system is set up to function for the white middle class child.
5. People should seek support systems to help.

Comments from the Audience

- Day care should consider the child as an individual: all children have the same rights.
- What good is a good day care program if the family is not being helped? Family supportive guidance is needed to improve the overall environment for the child.
- Consistency is needed in a good day care program. Also the quality of the staff is important.

Diane Nichols' response to this comment:

Ms. Nichols agreed that quality of the staff is very important. The staff should be selected on the basis of ability. Children and Youth Services are concerned with licensing homes and providing skilled personnel for staffing day care centers. She also pointed out the importance of maintaining a specific staff - child ratio for quality care.

Comments Continued
- How can families become involved?

Bonnie Springer responded:

The parent programs in New Castle County should be physically more readily available and therefore, could be more supportive. The idea of flexi-time, where parents have free hours to meet during work days before they are exhausted, needs to be further explored.

- Parents need to be able to relate to each other (programs--meetings--are too much for tired working parents).
- Problem of dealing with guilt of working mothers.

Diane Nichols' response to this comment:

Parents have needs and are people also. The parents who fulfill themselves individually are better parents.

WORKSHOP 2

The Effects of Government and the Economy on Families
Moderator: Bebe Coker, Community Services Office
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington

1. Living With Inflation in the Middle Class - Bebe Coker

2. Living With Inflation on Public Assistance - Celeste Peters, Paralegal for Community Legal Aid and Chris Berry, Paralegal for Community Legal Aid Food Law Program and Members of the Public Assistance Task Force.

3. Subsidizing the Middle Class - Jerold Gold, Finance Director for the City of Wilmington

DHF Scholar: Carl W. Nelson, Ph.D., Department of Political Science, Temple University

Celeste Peters and Chris Berry, both paralegals for Community Legal Aid and members of the Public Assistance Task Force, discussed the financial needs of the poor. Several case studies were presented. General assistance for one person was $50.00 a month with no medical assistance and maybe food stamps. Fifty-seven dollars a month was stated to be possible in a special program. The maximum grant was reported as $189.40 a month for SSI. Enormous variables are included in the stipends. Families needing assistance were urged to call the Community Legal Aid for advice and assistance.

One case study was discussed in depth during the workshop. A middle class family was suddenly in need of financial help because of very limited resources. They applied to the DSS (Department of Social Services) who asked for verification and in turn referred the family to a food closet. The family was required to sign a document that allowed no financial assistance to be accepted from the husband, who had deserted his family. It was pointed out that the system provokes confessing as well as encouraging dishonesty.

Assistance that was available from Community Legal Aid included ways of identifying problems, discovering liason, researching ineligibility and monitoring.

The AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) Standard of Need for Welfare in Delaware is based on figures for what it would cost a family to survive (in terms of basic food and

housing expenses) in 1968. Since inflation has at least doubled expenses since that time, families on AFDC find it impossible to meet fixed expenses.

Celeste and Chris acknowledged how difficult it is to satisfy the regulations demanded by the system and at the same time maintain the dignity of the client.

Bebe Coker highlighted the difficulties middle class people encounter in trying to maintain their standard of living in the face of inflation--including costs for energy and transportation and the inflation of professional fees. Middle income families are finding themselves losing housing mobility while at the same time battling increasingly expensive maintenance expenses.

Jerold Gold discussed the City of Wilmington's low interest city home mortgages. Wilmington sponsored a revenue bond issue for 8-1/2 percent mortgage financing for families with incomes under $30,000. The program is operated through a number of lending institutions in Wilmington with enough funding to last approximately through December, 1979.

Mayor McLaughlin outlines the objectives of the low interest city home mortgages to include: (1) helping to cut the cost of home ownership in Wilmington for qualified families, (2) stimulating the revitalization of City neighborhoods by encouraging new construction and the rehabilitation of vacant properties, and (3) expanding the City's tax base. The program does not involve the expenditure of any city, state or federal tax monies. The program funds were received from private investors who purchased tax-exempt revenue bonds. The bondholders will be paid back completely through mortgage payments and other funds generated by the program.

Carl Nelson suggested that many people simultaneously hold a general disdain for "big government" and "the bureaucracy" while at the same time displaying a reluctance to see program cuts in areas that affect them or their families--programs such as the G.I. bill, tax credits for homeowners, programs for senior citizens, etc.

It appears that the effects of the worldwide adjustment of energy costs will continue to have a long-term inflationary impact on the American economy. The movement of lower-skill-level jobs to cheaper labor markets in foreign countries and the increasing difficulty in raising productivity as dramatically as in the past will tend to decrease spendable

income in the future. It is possible that the governmental responses to changes in the economic conditions are likely to be adaptive responses to the economic pressures rather than any major efforts to restructure our economic system.

Dr. Nelson suggested that it is also unlikely that the dominant attitudes against continued governmental intervention will change. Is it possible that in the long-term perspective, it will be the family unit that continues to make the most dramatic adaptive changes, while the larger, established organizational systems slowly and more gradually accommodate. Is it fair to the family to expect this relatively small unit to take the brunt of the economic storm? If it is true that the family unit of the future will have greater diversity and heterogenity without benefit of clearly defined roles and family functions, it may well be that uncertainty will heighten the stresses that the family will bear. What might we do to maximize positive adaptations to the economic situation at all levels?

How has the inflation experience been similar for those in the middle and lower class? How has it been most markedly different? What can we in the middle class learn from those in programs like AFDC that will help us better cope with future scarcities?

WORKSHOP 3

Aging Persons In The Family
Moderator: Gay Enterline
Continuing Education
University of Delaware, Dover

1. Housing -- Richard C. Stazefky, Executive Director, Ingleside Retirement Apartments in Wilmington.

2. The Transition from Married to Single -- Madaline Buchanan of Dover.

3. Strengths Within the Family in Relation to Growing Old -- Margaret E. McGee, A.C.S.W., Catholic Social Services

DHF Scholar: Bonny Anderson, M.S.S., Dept. of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware and the Division of Aging.

Workshop Coordinator: Frank Boxwill and Madeleine A. Lynch, A.C.S.W., Consultation and Education Unit, Southern New Castle County Community Mental Health, Division of Mental Health, DHSS

Richard C. Stazesky described various housing options for the elderly. The variety included apartments for the elderly, funded apartment projects, the extended family, group living home (in which certain services are provided), extended care with medicare facilities, foster care and state facilities. He stressed the importance of both individual and family needs in making decisions relating to housing concerns of the elderly.

Madaline Buchanan discussed the transition from being married to widowhood. She emphasized the need to prepare for being alone--preparation is necessary not only for the emotional shock, but also for the social and economic changes the widow will undergo. Ms. Buchanan's suggestions for the process of preparation for widowhood included broadening one's circle of friends and activities outside the home and building a religious experience to have as a central focus to one's life.

Margaret McGee suggested that there are certain strengths within the family in relation to growing old. She stated that growing old affects everyone and we all must learn to deal with the concept of aging. Families must support the need of the elderly for autonomy and privacy and be able to help them become aware of and adapt to their changing roles within the family system.

Bonnie Anderson stressed that most of the life process changes during the elderly years are losses. For example, the kinship family is lost; control of self is often lost. She also pointed out that in the United States, there are presently two generations over 65 years old - those in their 60's and their parents in their 80's. Both generations need help in supporting themselves and their families. Ms. Anderson stated that the family provides 80 percent of the services needed by aging persons; public programs need only supply the rest.

WORKSHOP 4

The Family and Law
Moderator: Elizabeth S. Poole
Junior League of Wilmington, Inc.

1. What Laws Help Assure the Foster Child That the State is a Good Parent? Mary Ball Morton, Children and Placement Coordinator and Second Vice-President of Junior League of Wilmington (a.m.)
   Wendy Barron, Chairman of the Committee for Researching the External Review Systems for Children in Foster Care for the Junior League of Wilmington (p.m.)

2. Does the Adopted Child Lose Its Right to State Support Because it Obtains a Permanent Family? Maureen M. Piper, Co-Chairman, Delaware Coalition for Children and a foster and adoptive parent

3. Do Children Have the Same Rights as Adults to Representation? Sandra Kaufmann, Esq., I.C.I. Corporation and Barbara Richards, First Vice-President Elect, Junior League of Wilmington

4. Legislating Behavior: Child Restraint Systems, Representatives from the American Academy of Pediatrics "Speak up for Children" campaign. Charles Minor, M.D.(a.m.) - Maurice Liebesman, M.D. (p.m.)

DHF Scholar: Dr. Penny Deiner, Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware

Workshop Coordinator: Elizabeth S. Poole

Wendy Barron (Junior League, Wilmington) discussed the problem of "Foster Care Drift" - the case when a child moves from foster home to foster home. She reported on a study in-depth on foster care done by the Junior League and the legislation drafted, which recommended the establishment of a citizen's review board that would scrutinize the records of children in foster care.

Mary Ball Morton addressed the topic of "What laws help assure the foster child that the state is a good parent?" One of her main concerns was the lack of permanency for foster home children. Ms. Morton pointed out that in 1971, an external review was set up to review all cases of foster care children in South Carolina. In West Virginia, the court screens all cases in reference to children. Ms. Morton also mentioned that a foster care review system is being developed for Delaware.

Maureen Piper discussed the topic, "Does the adopted child lose his right to state support because he obtains a permanent family?" In 1971 a law had been passed that gave foster parents

a medical and boarding subsidy to help offset the cost of care for a handicapped child. This act was called the "Enabling Act." The process of adoption was slowed due to a lack of medical funding for handicapped children who had persons who wanted to adopt them but could not afford the financial burden of caring for a handicapped child.

A medical subsidy is paid to foster parents and not to adoptive parents. Medicaid picks up the medical bills for a child in foster care.

Ms. Piper pointed out that in order to qualify for a medical subsidy, the foster parents must have an income under $8,000.00, which often results in having the persons least qualified as parents.

A proposal has been presented to the joint finance committee and the Department of Health and Social Services to change the policy of financial assistance after adoption.

Ms. Piper felt that the state should try to provide better services for natural parents and believed there was as much abuse in a foster home as in a natural home. One of the problems facing agencies is finding foster homes for teenagers (because very few people want the responsibility of raising an older child).

Barbara Richards discussed "Do children have the same rights as adults to representation?" Ms. Richards feels that juveniles should be treated differently from adults in a court of law. She also pointed out that in the state of Wisconsin, the child may attend custody cases. Children need independent representation in custody cases. Ms. Richards suggested that a law guardian program be set up for children during court cases.

Sandra Kaufmann, Esquire, I.C.I. Corp., concurred with Barbara Richards and added that in Delaware not only does the child not have anyone to represent him/her, often the child is not even permitted in court during custody cases.

Dr. Maurice Liebesman, a pediatrician,was an advocate of the "Speak Up for Children Campaign." He felt that one of the best things that children can be given is parents. Dr. Liebesman also pointed out that 60 percent of the persons who die on the highway are children. There are more children (up to age 14) dying on the highway than are dying from all the childhood diseases put together. In 1972, 4 million persons were permanently disabled by car accidents. By 1980, 80 million persons will die in car accidents.

In 1978, Tennessee passed a child passenger restraint law which requested that any child under four years old must be restrained by suitable restraints while traveling on the highway.

Dr. Liebesman also stated that as a physician, he is required to report abuse cases; but when he was a resident, he could get sued if he said anything in reference to child abuse.

Dr. Charles Minor also from the Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommended the strict enforcement of seat belts to diminish the number of fatalities of children caused by auto accidents.

The following questions were raised during the discussion section:

1. At what age does a policeman have the right to go into a school and question a child without the knowledge of the parents?

2. What are the juvenile correction homes like in Delaware, and is it true that the children who go there rarely leave?

3. How do you get medical assistance for foster children?

4. It was stated that the law should be changed so that corporal punishment would not be allowed in the public schools.

5. Why do school buses not have seat belts? It was suggested that the American Academy of Pediatrics push for seat belts in school buses.

WORKSHOP 5

The Family and Mass Media
Moderator: Ed Weslowski, President
White Clay Video, Inc.

1. Violence Sells the News - Ed Weslowski

2. Commercials: Reversing the Stereotypes - Dr. Florence Geis, Department of Psychology, University of Delaware.

3. Advertising and the Elderly - Dr. Elliot Schreiber, Department of Communication, University of Delaware.

DHF Scholar: Betty J. Haslett, Ph.D., Department of Communication, University of Delaware.

Workshop Coordinator: Chris Baver, Senior, Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware.

Ed Weslowski opened the workshop by commenting about violence in the mass media. Weslowski believes the audience is "grabbed" by high action programs - police stories, traffic accidents and fires. The average action news story is 30 seconds or less and is usually accompanied by pictures of the action on video tape. Often the lead story covers a fire, accident or murder. And, although we fear the disturbing effects that violence has on children, broadcasters are quick to point out that this is what people watch.

Weslowski ended his presentation by stressing that the public learn how to use the media to get varying points of view expressed.

Dr. Florence Geis reported that her research indicates that the real effects of TV on children won't become evident until they are adults. Through watching the thousands of commercials broadcast today, children are learning that men and women, girls and boys are not equal. The young women have been brain-washed in terms of career choices. They select a vocation on the basis of alternatives perceived available in the society in which they grow up. Four basic assumptions made by commercials influence the career choices, indeed the very make-up of children today.

They are:

1. Housework is done by women, not men.
2. Women are and want to be sex objects for men; and time, energy and money are spent to achieve this goal.
3. Men are the authorities in knowledge, taste and opinions.

4. Men are more important as persons than women. (In a man-woman relationship, both partners accept his needs as more important than hers.)

Four commercials were shown as they now appear on television; the commercials were then reshown with the roles reversed to illustrate the inequality created by the roles.

Dr. Elliot Schreiber discussed advertising and the elderly. Schreiber believes advertising tries to perpetuate, not create, images of the elderly. TV delivers audiences to the advertisers, with the quality audience being from 18-49 year-old women.

A. C. Nielsen ratings found people over 55 to watch 5-1/2 hours of TV a day. Content analyses of advertising have shown the elderly in a negative state. However, in a Delaware study, 50 percent of the 450 elderly questioned felt that people in advertising are like them. Sixty percent of the elderly viewed the commercials as useful, with health and food product commercials to be the most beneficial.

At a media conference in Poland - the following findings were offered:

1. High TV viewers believe TV more.
2. Young elderly (60-65) believe TV has more credibility, more consumer information than older elderly.
3. Older elderly felt newspapers offered more credibility.

Schreiber concluded his presentation by noting that commercials today are geared to young people. However, as the population ages, advertising will also age in presentation of commercials.

Comments and questions by Dr. Beth Haslett:

1. What has been the impact of television on your family?

   a. How does television affect your lifestyle?
   b. TV is a leisure time activity. As leisure time increases, will TV watching also increase?
   c. Is the TV set in a prominent place in your home?
   d. Do you structure your life around favorite TV shows?
   e. Is TV used as a babysitter?

We have invented "family rooms" so people have a place to watch TV. With all of the negative aspects of TV effect, we need to also recognize that more information is more readily available than at any other point in history. Some are concerned about information overload. In the end, we have to take responsibility for what we watch on television.

People seem to watch around 27 hours of television per week irrespective of income or education level. It is impossible to generalize about TV watching behavior, because people watch it in many different ways (total concentration vs. background "noise") for many different reasons.

2. What are some of the social effects of television?
   a. Social regularity. TV gives us a window on how other people live and think.
   b. Status conferral. TV creates heroes for our country.
   c. Agenda setting. People watch TV to learn about issues and topics for discussion.
   d. Narcotization. This may prevent you from acting on certain things because "being informed" becomes a substitute for action.
   e. Environmental surveillance. TV gives us much needed news, such as information about the Three Mile Island accident and other critical events.

3. How realistically is life portrayed by television?
   a. Soap operas may be the most realistic shows on television. TV gives us an illusion of being in a heavily populated world.

4. What effect do television commercials have on child growth and development?
   a. By the age of 12, children begin to distrust commercials.
   b. Children are vulnerable watchers, and they need supervision of what they are exposed to via TV.

5. What would your life be like with no TV?

General Questions and Comments

1. What will life be like when and if home video recorders become much less expensive? When you are not a captive of seeing TV shows in a specific time slot, will you become more selective about the material you view?

2. TV is a mass sales person. You can try to influence what is broadcast by writing to the stations.

3. How can we get more cultural, educational events on TV?

   TV is big business. When it is commercially profitable to run cultural and educational programs, they will be run.

4. What is the recent legislation relating to television?

   The freedom of communications act is being rewritten. Hearings are currently in progress on whether commercials should be banned or severely controlled in children's programming. Write your Congressman, the media, and the FCC about your views.

WORKSHOP 6

The Family and Religion
Moderator: Rev. Jack McKelvey
Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington

1. The Impact of "Folk Religion" vs. Institutional Religion on the Family. Rev. Jack Little, Director, Tressler Center for Human Growth.

2. Separation of Church and State: How Involved Should the Church be in Matters of Public Policy? Msgr. Thomas J. Reese, Secretary, Department of Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Wilmington.

DHF Humanitarian and Workshop Coordinator: Thomas R. Jewett, Director, Family Life Bureau, 1300 North Broom Street, Wilmington

Jack Little suggested that "Folk Religion" was often more powerful in our society than institutional religion. He defined folk religion as compatible with our American value-system, and generally what is "right" and "proper" and "consistent with God's purposes." One of the strong themes in folk religion is the absence of a sense of judgment. In contrast, institutional religion is a reflection of the values of that particular church or synagogue.

Jack McKelvey: Why hasn't the church spoken to new family life-styles? Two answers were proposed: (1) Because churches' professional personnel are limited and (2) because psychologically it takes 10-20 years to put what we know into practice.

Tom Jewett stated that the institutional churches--all of them--are having a hard time getting rid of the traditional stereotype of the family. How can churches be responsive to the needs of single parent families, two-parent working families, homosexual families? Since one family in four moves every year, what does this mean for the church in terms of supporting the family and its relationship to the community?

Tom Jewett stated that the Catholic church has had a successful program for widows and widowers, but the program for people who are separated or divorced has not been as successful.

Msgr. Reese said that historically there was a pragmatic reason for the First Amendment, prohibiting "an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free experience thereof." Initially, a number of the colonies had established religions. Jefferson's proposed "wall of separation" between Church and state was later construed to mean not simply avoiding, favoring one religion over another but holding religion as such at arms length.

Perhaps the major church-state issue is to what extent the church may attempt to influence public social policy. It is generally considered that individual church members, following the dictates of their conscience, may act as they please. However, there are efforts to limit the direct involvement of the official church. The IRS limits churches to using no more than five percent of their resources for lobbying and other socio-political activities, under pain of losing their tax exempt status. Legislation has been proposed to liberalize this requirement. However, some of the churches have opposed these efforts because they view it as an attempt by the government to define religion, which itself is a violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

WORKSHOP 7

Medical and Social Services: Their Impact on the Family
Moderator: Robert M. Weaver, Director
Family Service of Northern Delaware, Inc.

1. Family Violence: Support for its Victims and Offenders. Lou Beccaria, Program Director, Child., Inc.

2. Funding That Fractures. Mae Hightower Vandamm, Executive Director, Delaware Curative Workshop, Inc.

3. What Medical and Social Services do Citizens Have a Right to Expect? A. Roke Liebeman, Retired Assistant Director, Division of Social Services.

4. Human Services and Fiscal Responsibility. David Person, Planner, Division of State Service Centers.

DHF Scholar: Suzanne K. Steinmetz, Ph.D., Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware.

Workshop Coordinator: George Meldrum, Consultation and Education Unit, Southern New Castle County Mental Health, Division of Mental Health, DHSS.

Dr. Lou Beccaria defined public policy in relation to family violence as dealing with problems of human need and deprivation. He stressed the need to be aware of all aspects of funding, legislative, and organizational structures in advocating public policy for family violence. He also pointed out that although Delaware law has succeeded in identifying the problems of child abuse, it has been ineffective in dealing with the concepts of treatment within the family and prevention.

Mae Hightower Vandamm discussed the issue of social service funding that fractures the family. The three broad problems in this area include (1) artificial political boundaries, (2) categorization of funds, and (3) broad intent of legislation with failure to follow through with adequate funding. Ms. Vandamm described specific instances including welfare funding procedures, the Medicare Act, vocational rehabilitation legislation and developmental disability, all of which illustrate the problems outlined.

A. Roke Liebeman stated that as a result of the Social Security Acts, all individuals have the right to expect quality medical care readily available at a reasonable cost. Presently the service system is so complex and fragmented that it is difficult for the individual to understand the program to know for which program one is eligible and where to go for that program. He raised several important issues including the following: (1) Do we have adequate medical care? (2) Do we have adequate social services that are readily available? and (3) Do we have adequate physicians? He also emphasized the need for simplification of federal programs.

Dave Person, substituting for Charles Debnam, discussed the fiscal responsibilities of human services. He stated that human services have always been costly; however, since government involvement, the cost problem has become more visible. Fiscal responsibility lies with the legislators to determine program budgets and for administrators to carry out. Mr. Person pointed out that the federal government influences state programs through federal funding procedures. During the past budget cycle, administrators in the Department of Health and Social Services utilized the method of Zero-Based-Budgeting. This method identifies the cost of different service levels in descending order. It is then the decision of the legislators as to which level is to be funded.

Dr. Suzanne K. Steinmetz stressed that we must examine attitudes and values underlying our decisions concerning medical and social services. There are several issues involved in the delivery of medical services, including (1) How much government involvement is necessary? (2) Does everyone deserve good health, or must we work for it, and (3) Medical technology has outgrown our values system of "the family must provide." (Medical technology can extend the life of the elderly beyond productive years.) Dr. Steinmetz proposed that until the middle class exerts pressure for adequate medical and social services for all (as is the case in education), we will not receive adequate funding to meet the needs for these services.

One of the problems brought up in group discussion was the observation that members of the middle class are not eligible for services until disaster strikes. At the same time, due to rising inflation, more and more middle class families are needing the services.

WORKSHOP 8

The Family and Work
Moderator: Sue Schaefer
New Castle County Home Economist
Delaware Cooperative Extension Service

1. Flexitime and Part-time Options for Working Parents. Nettie Green, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, Georgetown.

2. Part-time from a Parent's Perspective. Kathy Kuennan, Director of Mental Health Association in Sussex County.

3. Female Discrimination in Job Classification and Salary: Its Impact on the Family. Dot Tyrawski, Extension Homemakers Club, Newark.

DHF Scholar: Sarah S. Van Camp, Ed.D., Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware.

Workshop Coordinator: Sue Schaefer

Nettie Green described the various flexitime and part-time options for working parents. Flexitime was defined as working full-time hours with a flexible schedule based on the individual's time schedule for family and other needs. Generally, there is a core time when all employees must be present, while arrival and departure times may vary within a given time range. Ms. Green also described job-sharing and other part-time options and stressed that most part-time positions are found at the blue collar level in custodial and secretarial services.

These working variations have been shown to increase morale, productivity, office coverage; and to decrease tardiness. There are costs, however: fringe benefits, supervision, and bookkeeping are made more difficult, especially in part-time and job sharing situations.

Kathy Kuennan stated that for the parent, there are both positive and negative aspects to working part-time. Some positive points are that there is more time to spend with the family than with a full-time job, the transition to full-time work is easier than if unemployed, scheduling can be very flexible, and mothers are able to develop outside activities. The negative aspects Ms. Kuennan pointed out included the fact that fringe benefits are less than if working full-time. The wife's part-time position has less status than her husband's job, and much self-discipline is required if one sets one's own hours.

Dot Tyrawski discussed female discrimination in job classification and salary. She stated that older, more experienced women were often discriminated against because female attractiveness and age are often criteria for employee selection. Another problem is that jobs labeled "typically female" consisting of homemaking or "mothering" skills have the lowest pay and status ratings. Although many women are forced into the economy because of the high cost of living, men are still considered the "breadwinner." Ms. Tyrawski'stressed that today, role changes in terms of working women and "breadwinners" must be dealt with from within the family.

Dr. Sarah Van Camp emphasized that the family today is in transition with women now a major part of the workforce. Historically most women have always worked in fields, factories, homes, etc. She also raised several issues including the following: (1) Are quality day care centers giving alternatives for family development? (2) Do males feel discriminated against in job advancement because of affirmative action and (3) Is the fact that monetary value is not placed on child raising a motivation for women to seek employment? Dr. Van Camp stressed that despite the high divorce rate today, the fact that women are training for and seeking employment to help provide for their families indicates that the family (in some form) may be stronger than ever.

Informal discussion groups met at lunch to pursue a topic of interest related to the day's focus on public policy and the family. The content of the discussions was unrecorded, but the discussion group leaders are listed below:

Marjorie Van Gulick, Coordinator
The Developmental Center, Delaware Curative Workshop
and Project Intensive Habilitation Training, Project Director

Dorothy Onn, Director
Family Life Education
Family Services of Northern Delaware

Edith Beckett, Child Care Administrator
Sussex County Community Action

Joe Cobb, Principal, Pulaski Elementary School
and Parent Early Education Center, Director

Carol King, Resource Coordinator
Children and Youth Services
Division of Social Services

Dorothy Talbert, Deputy Director
Adult and Special Services
Division of Social Services

Richard Pryor, A.C.S.W., Executive Director
Catholic Social Services

Gay Enterline
Division of Continuing Education
University of Delaware

Dr. Julie Boozer, Director of Nursing
Wesley College

Dr. June Abrams, Social Services Administrator
Division of Aging

Sandra Worthen, Special Assistant for
Education to Governor duPont

Small Group Forums

Participants at the Family Forum had an opportunity to voice their major concerns for Delaware families in small group forums. Some people also chose to offer possible solutions for the problems they highlighted.

The purpose of the small group forums was not to provide exhaustive, detailed solutions to the problems Delaware families are facing, but rather to "brainstorm" about the most serious needs and ways these needs might be met. The concerns identified are offered here in the hopes that those who have the expertise and experience in grappling with such problems will apply their attention and energies to these areas.

***The lack of education for parenting and family life was a concern for many. Some participants suggested that we need to develop an educational program beginning in early childhood and continuing in the public schools at all levels. In addition, parenting education (including discussions on the role of men and women, parenting skills and discipline of children) should be available at the community level for all ages and income groups.

One participant suggested that too many parents are denying their responsibilities in parenting their children, and are delegating that responsibility to schools, television, social organizations and youth clubs.

Another thread of concern was for child protection, with the suggestion that although protective laws presently exist, funding is questionable. An examination of the laws on parental and children's rights would probably be a useful exercise.

Many participants voiced concern for better coordinated, more responsive child protective services, with less institutionalization of children and immediate homes for children who are not wanted or unable to be cared for by their families. One participant suggested that community programs, timely evaluations and more family counseling (working with the family unit as-a-whole) would increase the quality of child protective services available in Delaware.

***The effect of inflation on the ability of parents to provide for their children was a popular concern. Inflation has left many welfare families, and families where there is divorce or disability so consumed by the economic conditions that the physical and mental health of the family deteriorates rapidly.

Many two parent families have opted for both parents to work, a decision that often heightens stress and tension and sometimes does not noticeably decrease financial insecurity.

Unemployment seems to be a factor that further diminishes not only the family's financial resources, but also the emotional and intellectual resources that would normally be used to cope with a family crisis.

Some participants suggested that a "child allowance" or basic family allowance might alleviate some of the financial stress; others emphasized the importance of enhancing the concept of community (possibly through neighborhood groups) to provide support and encouragement to families through cooperative efforts.

***The care of dependent elderly at home (medical costs, in particular) was a concern of some participants. A possible solution would be to have representatives from the Division of Aging who could help families work out acceptable and realistic options.

Transportation and housing for the handicapped and elderly was another related concern offered by a participant who recognized that acceptable programs would probably be quite expensive in this area.

***Patterns of funding government programs relating to the family was an area many participants identified as an area of concern.

> "There is not a policy that supports the family as a unit or system. All Federal programs either fragment the family or support only one aspect of the family; thus by default, support the fragmentation of the family." Solution: Review all legislation and redesign it to work as a system to support the total family unit.

The most desirable funding patterns appear to be those that minimize government intervention and maximize the choices that families can make for themselves.

The problem of how to get the most services for the least money was addressed by one participant who suggested the following three options: (1) thorough and imaginative use of volunteers; (2) careful development of programs with prior research to avoid duplication; and (3) consideration of all the ramifications of the program.

***Health care for those with chronic/catastrophic illness and those who do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare and cannot afford Blue Cross was another concern identified. One participant wrote, "Is there any answer other than socialized medicine?"

***The quality of education available in our public schools was a concern for a number of participants who focused on the need for a relevant, effective education for all. One participant suggested that "the lowering of educational standards in the recent past has caused a high rate of illiteracy among high school graduates." This affects the types of jobs that graduates can get, as well as the overall commitment to excellence and quality of production in the workplace.

***Getting the services out to the people who need them most is a continuing concern of people in human services. One participant suggested that the medical, educational, social and environmental services available might be listed in a booklet (much like the telephone book) and given to each family, with annual updates. Another possibility would be to have this information incorporated in the telephone book.

Many other participants underscored the importance of making the services available to whole families via family counseling and open centers where families could go to get help.

***Single parents now head 16 percent of our families. Participants were concerned about what is being done to decrease the economic plight of single parents--especially mothers--in relation to housing, child care, medical care and continuing education. Another participant highlighted the need for social and emotional support for families such as these who are in the process of etching out new lifestyles.

***Teenage pregnancy is increasing rapidly throughout the nation to the extent that many are concerned about "kids with kids." Participants mentioned support networks for teenage parents, adequate public assistance programs, and quality sex education in the schools, community and home as areas of concern.

***Public transportation downstate limits the options of residents, including youth--who can be (depending on their family circumstances and location) severely restricted in the number of out-of-school programs in which they can participate. Many citizens must deal with isolation (away from neighborhood and community).

***Special needs of working parents include good quality care of children of working parents (for both working one and two-parent families) for all income levels. Problems include the availability of assistance for low-income and single-parent families in paying for quality day care. There appears to be a lack of funds for Title XX programs--or maybe it is more a problem of the allocation of those funds--for day care and other family sources. Infant-toddler care of high quality is scarce.

Part-time jobs (with appropriate benefits) for parents who wish or need to be in the workforce, without forcing major lapses in the employment record would increase options for parents. Other participants suggested more flexible-hour jobs so that parents can share child-care responsibilities as well as alleviate the serious shortage of quality after-school care. One proposal for "latch-key children": We must have an 8-hour school day and a 12-month school year.

***The values we are teaching our children may need to be critically examined. One participant suggested that our "low moral tone" is partially the product of drugs and sex being exploited in the mass media.

One participant suggested that more intense action on the part of churches and other institutions concerned with moral values could help to strengthen concepts of commitment to the family ideal.

***The status of women has a strong effect on the quality of parenting we can offer our children. Some (or many) women have a poor attitude about themselves, and tend to pass this attitude about the worth of women on down to their children.

Discrimination on the job most strongly affects single-parent families (fourteen percent of all families now have a female head with no husband present; the median family income for this group was $7,210 in 1976 compared to $16,200 for all husband-wife families) as well as families in which the father has suffered some type of disability. Equal pay for equal work seems urgently critical for those women who are the primary breadwinners for their families.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

"There can be a no more urgent priority for the next administration than to see that every decision our government makes is designed to honor and support and strengthen the American Family."

President Carter
1976 Campaign Speech in
New Hampshire

Delaware's Family Forum was a beginning step in the process of evaluating the positive or negative effects that public policies[1] have on our families. This was not a day to pick apart each other's proposals, but rather a day to try to visualize as many ways as possible that we might more effectively support our families and children.

Participants were encouraged to begin examining the existing public policies at the national, state, and local levels for ways in which they support (or do not support) families.

There was a general feeling that the less the government intervenes or intrudes in family life, the better. At the same time, there was a recognition that government can play a significant role in strengthening and supporting family units.

Hopefully, this heightening of awareness throughout the state will enhance the contribution Delaware will make to the anticipated White House Conference on Families in 1981. The Family Forum can serve as a starting point for the specific recommendations that will evolve after a thorough examination of public policies in light of our value systems and priorities for families.

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[1]For the purposes of these Proceedings, public policies will be defined as those decisions and courses of action which result from human affairs becoming public affairs and public issues.

> When the consequences of actions by individuals are confined to those persons involved, the act is considered a private affair. However, when the consequences are recognized as significantly affecting others, and an effort evolved to control or influence these consequences and externalities, they constitute a public affair and evolve into public issues around which there are differing viewpoints and controversies. (Darling and Bubalz, 1978)

In addition, throughout the planning stages, the Family Forum brought together service providers--professionals working with families and children throughout Delaware--in a setting which encouraged communication about their programs to citizens as well as other professionals. With the popular concern for identifying duplication of services as well as gaps in services, this opportunity to get together and compare notes on existing programs seemed to be beneficial to everyone.

Finally, for many Family Forum participants, the highlight of the day was the experience of sharing ideas and feelings with others quite different from themselves (in terms of family styles, political philosophy or financial circumstances). This experience often served to underscore the similarities the participants had in their values and goals for themselves, their families and their children.

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They Represent You. A fact sheet listing addresses and telephone numbers for state and local officials. Available from the League of Women Voters of Greater Wilmington, 11th and Washington Streets, Wilmington, Delaware 19801. 571-8948.